

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
September 12, 2011

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Rae Ann Butler	Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec		Millard Haines	Julianna Albowicz, Senator Mikulski representative
Hal Ehart	Pat Rosensteel			
Dennis Ford	Carolyn True			Pat Beach
David Gray, Comm.				Robin Summerfield, Senator Cardin representative
Jim Judd				
Diane Julian				
Carol Krimm, Alderman				
Louise Lynch				
Mary Rice				
Debra Savageau				
Virginia Skelley				
Stephen Wilhide				
Robert Wannemacher				

- I. Call to Order – Louise Lynch, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.
- II. Welcome & Introductions** – Louise welcomed all attendees. Several guests were present at today's meeting so introductions were done around the table.
- III. Action on the Agenda** – There were some things to be added to the agenda. Louise Lynch would like to discuss the request of the BoCC

to meet with the chairperson of county appointed commissions. Diane Julian will give a report as the liaison to Partners in Care.

IV. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the August 8, 2011 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Gray commented that in honor of those who lost their lives in attacks on September 11, 2001, the Commissioners hosted a special Tribute on September 8 at Winchester Hall. The video can be viewed on the County website. There may be a special Maryland legislative session starting October 17th. The BoCC is very interested in meeting one on one with the chairs of the Frederick County boards and commissions to learn more about the purpose and/or mission of each commission.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Krimm spoke also on the special session anticipated for October. Delegate Clagett would like to see no new taxes introduced during this session. She thanked Commissioner Gray for his vote on the excise tax to help direct funding for the changes to Opossumtown Pike. This project should start sometime in the spring. The Mayor announced in his "state of the city" address his intention to pursue increasing volunteer opportunities via a Legacy Leadership Program in Frederick.

Julianna Albowicz from Senator Mikulski's office attended today's meeting. She remarked that she is planning to attend the Alzheimer's Action Day at FCC on September 22. She is also planning to attend the Elder Expo on October 5th. Senator Mikulski is also hoping to attend.

Robin Summerfield from Senator Ben Cardin's office also attended today's meeting. He commented on some of the work currently being done in Congress. He also encouraged members of the CoA to contact their office directly with their comments. Sue Ramsburg can include email addresses and local phone numbers with the minutes.

Annual Report, Louise Lynch, - The updated recommendations which Raeann put together have been emailed to everyone. The decision was made to incorporate information from 2011 into the 2010 report. There was discussion regarding the wording in the first recommendation. The suggestion is to revise the request for funding and instead request a planning study. The request for funding may discourage any attention by the BoCC. The meeting with the BoCC will be on the agenda on September 22nd. The recommendations will also be presented at this meeting. The recommendations and requests have not changed over the past years because nothing has been done to change or improve these issues. The Census shows that the older population continues to grow. Working couples are bringing their

parents to live here from other areas. The BoCC has decided to pursue grant funding for capital improvements. They currently do not feel grants should be pursued for positions due to grant instability year to year. The DoA operates using funding from twenty-one grant sources. The grant funding has remained stable and consistent over many years.

Jim Judd spoke regarding a concern that the CoA is not actively and consistently supporting the DoA and the resources it needs to complete its mission. The services the DoA offers are not duplicated anywhere else. He had specific changes suggested for the recommendations that are to be presented next week. Louise and Jim will stay after the meeting today to try to incorporate some of these recommendations.

A voiced concern is that the current BoCC may not be aware of the needs of seniors because of their personal age. There is a great deal of needs when dealing with aging parents or spouses. Many services provided by the DoA may not be personally utilized by the current BoCC. The business community may also be affected by cuts to the senior services. The growing senior population may not be active consumers if they do not have transportation to local businesses or money to spend at the businesses. A needs assessment would be a great way to forecast potential financial issues in the future. There was a suggestion of using senior volunteers to help with information gathering. Robin Summerfield suggested there may be federal grant money available to implement this assessment. The Commission will not be pursuing a needs assessment at this time in this report. Louise will send a revised copy of the information to everyone before the meeting.

Spring Event, Louise Lynch – The Elder Services Provider Council is planning a Spring Senior event in partnership with FCC. Specific information was not available at this meeting, but it led to a discussion on hosting a legislative breakfast for seniors to attend. The Mental Health Association has in the past hosted such an event that was successful. The Federal, State, and local legislature/delegations would be invited. This is just an idea gathering talk at this time. There were lots of ideas presented and discussed. This could be done as an alternative to the forum. There would be a need to establish a committee to work on this project. There would need to be structure with a specific agenda in mind. One suggestion was to partner with the ESPC. The public would be invited to attend. This idea can be put on the agenda for the October meeting for further discussion.

Alderman Krimm mentioned that there will be a public meeting with the state delegation on the first Saturday of December. The purpose of the meeting is to offer the public an opportunity to voice any concerns they

have about state issues. This meeting will be held at Winchester Hall and does allow for public comment. Members of this commission should plan to attend this meeting.

- V. Discussion about the Community Foundation Needs Assessment Report, Louise Lynch** – There was little mention of senior needs in this report presentation. This was expected as the assessment was focused on children and youth and their needs. The expanded report had more information regarding senior needs in the community. This was not a factual community needs assessment as it left out one of the largest portions of the community. There was a suggestion to approach the Community Foundation to look for a benefactor to support a needs assessment focused on the older adult population.

- VI. Partners in Care, Diane Julian** – Diane has attended two PiC meetings. It is a great organization which is need of funding and volunteers. The Frederick representative will be taking two furlough days per pay period. The main goal at this time is to maintain current services. This is a 501(c)(3) organization which is supported by donations, fundraisers, and a retail thrift store.

Nominations, Jim Judd – There were three responses for the current two openings. The Committee interviewed Patricia Tudor recently. Jim presented applicable information acquired during the interview. She is very active in the community. Jim moved to accept Pat Tudor as a member of the Commission. Diane seconded the recommendation. All were in favor. Jim will prepare a letter of recommendation and forward to Joyce. This will then come before the BoCC for approval. There are two more interviews scheduled. Jim will present the results of those interviews at next month's meeting.

USM, Ginny Skelley – Ginny reported that the leaders of the USM were not able to get commitment from all members to purchase two tickets. There is no one to chair the Rally which puts the event in jeopardy. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19th.

Legislative, Louise Lynch – Bob has been asked to report to the commission the events that occur in Annapolis and local legislative issues. Bob is a member of the group working on the details of a senior tax credit for local homeowners. They hope to have recommendations in the next 45-60 days.

- VII. Announcements, All** – There have recently been some funding changes put in place by CMS which will have an effect on LTC facilities. This will be a huge impairment to facilities which are already struggling. This cut in funding may present CCRC as being less lucrative to potential buyers.

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It was mentioned that anyone can attend the Board of Trustees meetings for CCRC.

The BoCC will be meeting with chairs of the Board appointed commissions. The meetings will be held on September 29 and October 4. This will give each Commission a chance to go over their mission and past accomplishments. This is another opportunity to speak to the commissioners about the aging population. Each meeting should last approximately 20 minutes.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

Elder Expo, Wednesday October 5th, 9:00am – 2:00pm
Commission on Aging Executive Meeting, October 25, 2011 at 1:00pm